ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and apparatus for automatic delivery of a phone call on a device (e.g. a portable computer system) regardless of whether other tasks are

5   running on the operating system. A separate background task ("thread"), independent of the operating system, enables telephony functionality without regard to the mode of a graphical user interface. The background task is always active and functions to respond to an incoming call even if the user is in a graphical user interface window that requires some input from the user (e.g.

10 the graphical user interface is blocked). In one embodiment, the background task running under the operating system monitors an interrupt line and controls the serial port connected to a phone chipset/module. The background task also senses any of the device's buttons and controls any ringer, vibrator or LEDs of the device's hardware. In one embodiment, if the graphical user

15 interface is not blocked then one or more phone related displays can automatically be displayed on the screen. The phone related displays are similar to those displayed on cellular phones. In another embodiment, if the graphical user interface is blocked, the user can still answer the phone with no phone related displays on screen. This allows a user to be alerted to an

20 incoming phone call (via any ringer, vibrator and/or LEDs) and to answer the phone via a button on the device, without requiring the use of the device's LCD screen or the screen digitizer.